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written by: **Paul Jenkins**
pencils/inks by: **Dale Keown**
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The Darkness: **Jackie Estacado is the latest bearer of The Darkness, an ancient power that allows its bearer to create constructs and summon otherworldly demons limited only by his imagination. And he's been through the wringer as of late.**

Pitt : **Is a human/alien hybrid created by the extra terrestrial race known as the Creed. Pitt was genetically engineered to serve as a killing machine but rebelled and escaped to Earth. Along with Timmy, his genetic half brother, the pair must stay one step ahead of the Creed while trying to find their place in our world.**

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The problem with a life of crime is the hours you work.
And maybe the company you keep.
And sometimes the dead people.
MA LUCCESI'S
MAMA L
Paiage
PIZZA
ONE WAY

But all that goes by the wayside when you can finally lean back and enjoy the fruits of your ill-begotten gains. Such is the case with Mama Luccesi's, home of the world's greatest veal escalopini.
The old girl died a few years back but she passed on her pots and pans to Chef Harold and the place has never looked back.

Now it never helped relations with the Luccesi's that both her sons are morons. And rivals for some of the better opportunities this part of town has to offer.
But all that's forgotten thanks to a mutual agreement: I don't mess with them. I get to eat at Mama Luccesi's one afternoon per month.

Just one afternoon. Please, God.
Just one frickin' afternoon.

BDAM
JESUS CHRIST... NOW WHAT?
BDAM
BDAM
LENNY, OVER THERE! SHOOT AT THE WINDOW!
I CAN'T THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WAY!
Now, the other part of my "arrangement" with the Luccesi boys is that i'm never allowed to bring my piece inside in case of trouble.
Never did think much of that rule.
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
AW, NO.
WHAT THE HELL--?

HOLY SH--!
YAAHH!
WAIT, CHARLIE-- I GOT IT! I--
--UKK!
And this is how it goes when you live a life of crime:
From veal escalopini to Custer's Last Stand in the space of thirty seconds.

HEY, YOU! DOUSE THE LIGHTS!
WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY?
LISTEN, YOU DIPSTICK PIECE OF SNAIL SCROTUM'S LAST BOWEL MOVEMENT: IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, DOUSE THE GODDAMN LIGHTS!
AND REMIND ME TO KICK YOUR ASS WHEN THIS IS OVER!
OKAY... OKAY, I GOT IT--
--AHH!
GRRWWLLLL

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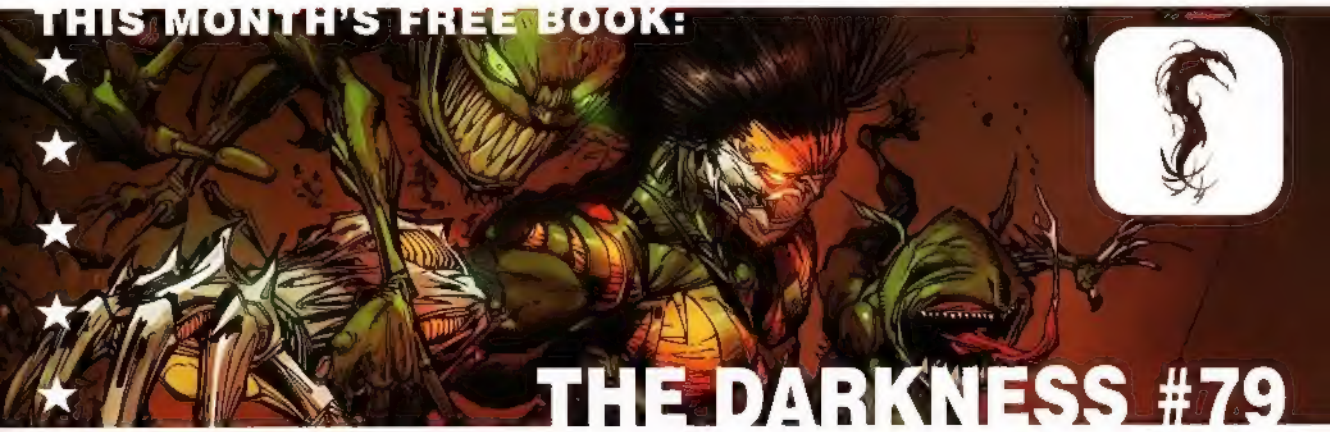

(W) Phil Hester (A) Jorge Lucas

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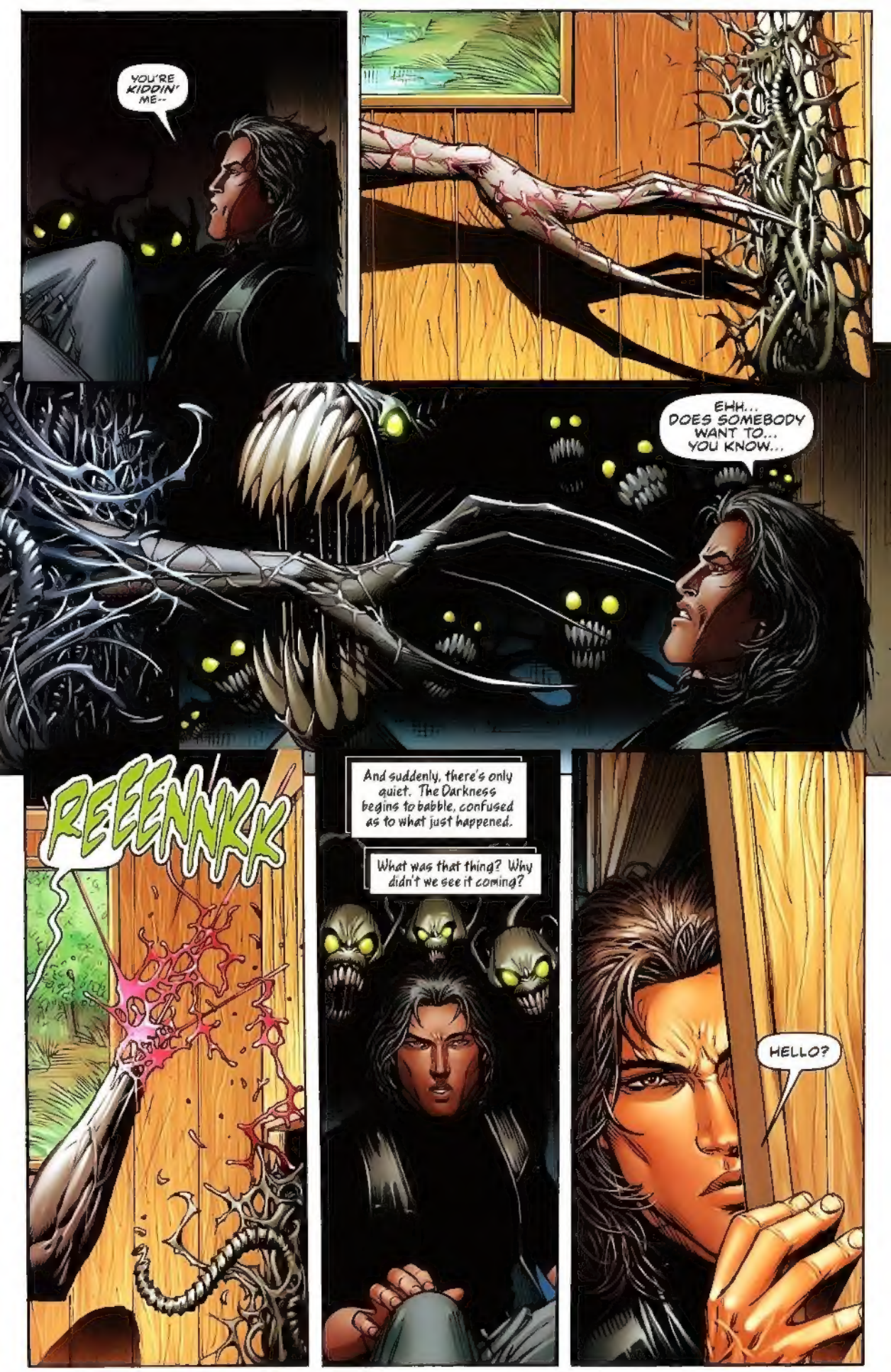
To say something is wrong is an understatement.
Usually, I would've sensed a restaurant full of corpses at the tables thanks to that special little insight I carry everywhere I go.
But even The Darkness didn't see this coming.
Somehow, these things --whatever they might be-- slipped through our little radar. The Darkness is as surprised as I am.
OH, GOD... PLEASE HELP ME--
--YAHH!
But not half as surprised as we're going to be.


YOU'RE KIDDIN' ME--
EHH... DOES SOMEBODY WANT TO... YOU KNOW...
REEENKK
And suddenly, there's only quiet. The Darkness begins to babble, confused as to what just happened.
What was that thing? Why didn't we see it coming?
HELLO?

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And how much is this little mess gonna cost me?

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I TOLD YOU, I JUST CAME IN FOR A STEAK.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A VEAL ESCALOPINI GUY. JACKIE CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU HAD TO DRINK?
MILK--
AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO MAKE IT OUT UNTOUCHED WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS CUT TO SHREDS? DID YOU EVEN SPILL YOUR MILK?
FUNNY HOW THAT HAPPENS, HUH, JACKIE? AN' TO MAMA LUCCESI'S BOYS, NO LESS.
LISTEN, YOU PIECE OF CRAP: WE KNOW IT WAS YOU, JUST TELL US HOW YOU DID IT.
WHAT, AN' SPOIL THE SURPRISE? YOU'RE THE DETECTIVE, YOU FIGURE IT OUT.
Heard it all before: they haven't got a thing. Not really interested right now.
Besides, there's too much else going on in this room right now.

WHO IS THIS CARTOON CHARACTER?
NAME'S JACKIE ESTACADO-- LOCAL BOY. PRETTY HOT NUMBER.
HE D'DN'T DO IT. LET HIM GO.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, AGENT DEWTT, WHAT THE FUCK IS IT WITH YOU PEOPLE? THIS AIN'T NO TV CRIME DRAMA.
I GOTTA MAJOR HEADACHE ON MY HANDS G VEN THE HIGH PROFILE OF THE VICTIMS AN' YOU NSA GJYS GOT THE CASE WRAPPED UP ALREADY? YOU KNOW WHO KILLED JFK TOO?
WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE WORK OF A SMALL CHILD AND HIS COMPANION. DOES THAT SUIT YOJ BETTER?
OKAY, JACKIE, YOJ CAN LEAVE.
WHO'S THE SPOOKS?
NO ONE YOJ NEED TO CARE ABOUT. GO HOME.
SMALL CHLD, HUH?
THANKS FOR THE T P

OKAY... WE'RE GOING EAST FROM HERE.
NO... WEST.
HANG ON.. WHICH WAY IS UP?
IF YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ME WHEN I SHOWED YOU HOW TO USE IT, T M, YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED YOU M GHT HAVE DONE BETTER IF YOU'D PAID ATTENTION
I WAS PAYING ATTENTION.
WOW... THIS PLACE IS SO COOL
IF BY "COOL" YOU MEAN LIVING UNDER THE STARS IN THE OPEN AIR THEN IT IS NOT COOL IT'S A MISERABLE EXISTENCE PUNCTUATED BY FREQUENT BLACKOUTS AND THE SMELL OF URINE--
BUT WE LIVE UNDER THE STARS.
THAT'S DIFFERENT
NOT FROM WHERE I'M SITTING.
GO THAT WAY

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T BANG THE TRACKING DEVICE? IT'S A VERY DELICATE PECE OF MACHINERY
I DUNNO. I MIGHT'VE BUMPED IT WHEN I BURPED BEFORE. I LAUGHED PRETTY HARD.
HAND IT TO ME
TIM, I'M NOT SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE MAGN TUDE OF WHY WE'RE HERE. IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT WE WORK TOGETHER AS A FUNCTIONING UNIT
THESE ENTITIES WE'RE CHASING ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD
WE CANNOT TAKE THE INFECTED LIGHTLY THEY APPEAR AS A COLLECTIVE, YET HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT AMONG US
DID YOU RECALIBRATE THE VERTICAL AXIS ON THIS DEVICE?
TCH I THINK YOU'VE BROKEN IT. I'M GETTING A READING FROM EVERY DIRECTION
I TOLD YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL IT'S NOT A VIDEO GAME
HERE! IT'S THIS WAY!
UM. PITT...

TIM! GET BEHIND ME! NOW!
WHY?
AAAIIGGHHH!
BECAUSE I SAID SO, THAT'S WHY!
HEY, PITT! WATCH THIS!
SPLAT
SPLAT

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IN STORES NOW

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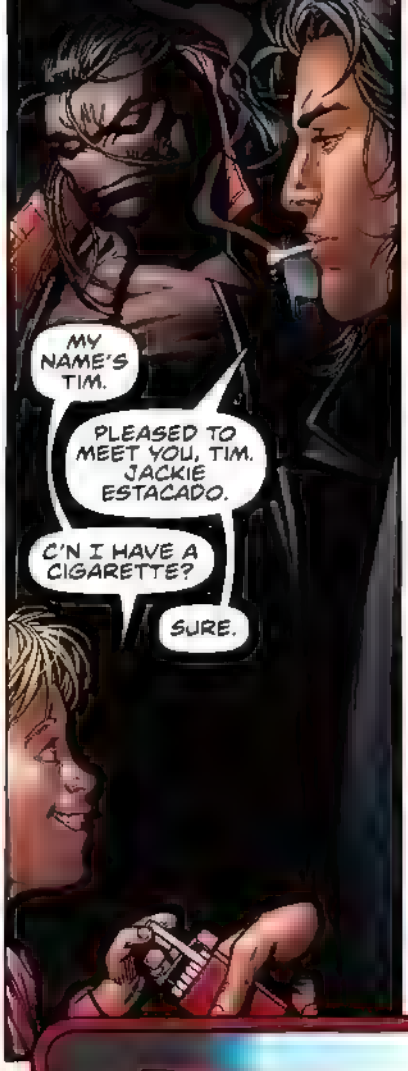
HRAAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
TIM? DID YOU DO THAT?
KTSSSH
KTSSSH
HI THERE.

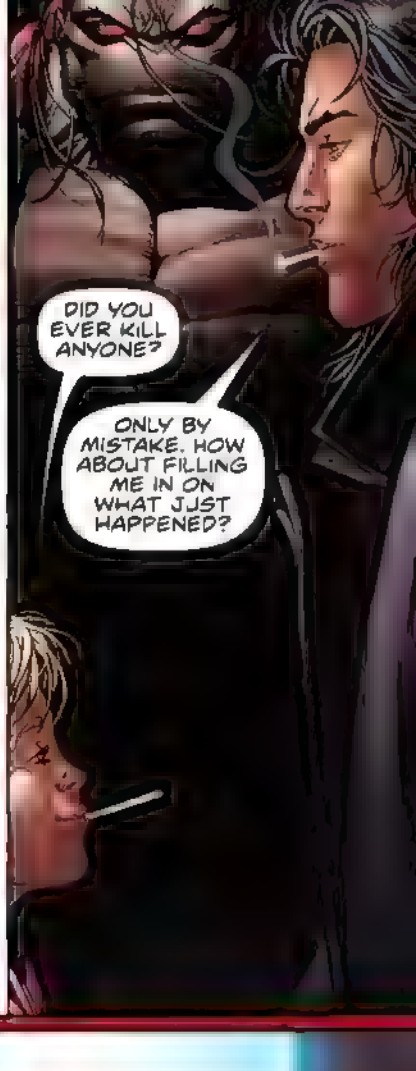
GO TO IT, BOYS. TEN BUCKS FOR THE MOST HEADS POPPED.
WAIT. . WHO ARE YOU?
I WAS ALMOST ON THE MENU WITH THESE JACKASSES LAST NIGHT. WHERE'D YOU SAY YOU WERE FROM AGAIN?
I DIDN'T. PLEASE .. THIS IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
IT IS WHEN YOU AND YOUR BUDDIES MAKE A STAIN ON MY CARPET. GONNA COST ME A FEW FAVORS TO CLEAN THIS PLACE UP.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE GUYS?
THEY ARE THE INFECTED.

BLEH. WELL, THEY CAN BE FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE INFECTED, CURRENTLY KNOWN AS THE DECEASED
NO! DON'T TOUCH THEM!
I DON'T INTEND TO. LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE BIG ONES IS GETTING AWAY.
AIIIEEEEKKK
I HESITATE TO ASK.

YOU DID ALL RIGHT, KID.
ARE YOU IN THE MAFIA?
HAH! HEHH.. JESUS... OKAY...
"NO, I'M A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN"
THAT'S SO COOL. HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
IT'S AN OLD MAFIA TRICK. HOW DID YOU?
I GOTTA CRAZY BRAIN. I CAN SEE THINGS AN' MOVE STUFF.
HOW ABOUT YOU, B G GUY? WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?

I DON'T HAVE A DEAL.
COME ON, TIM-- WE'RE LEAVING.

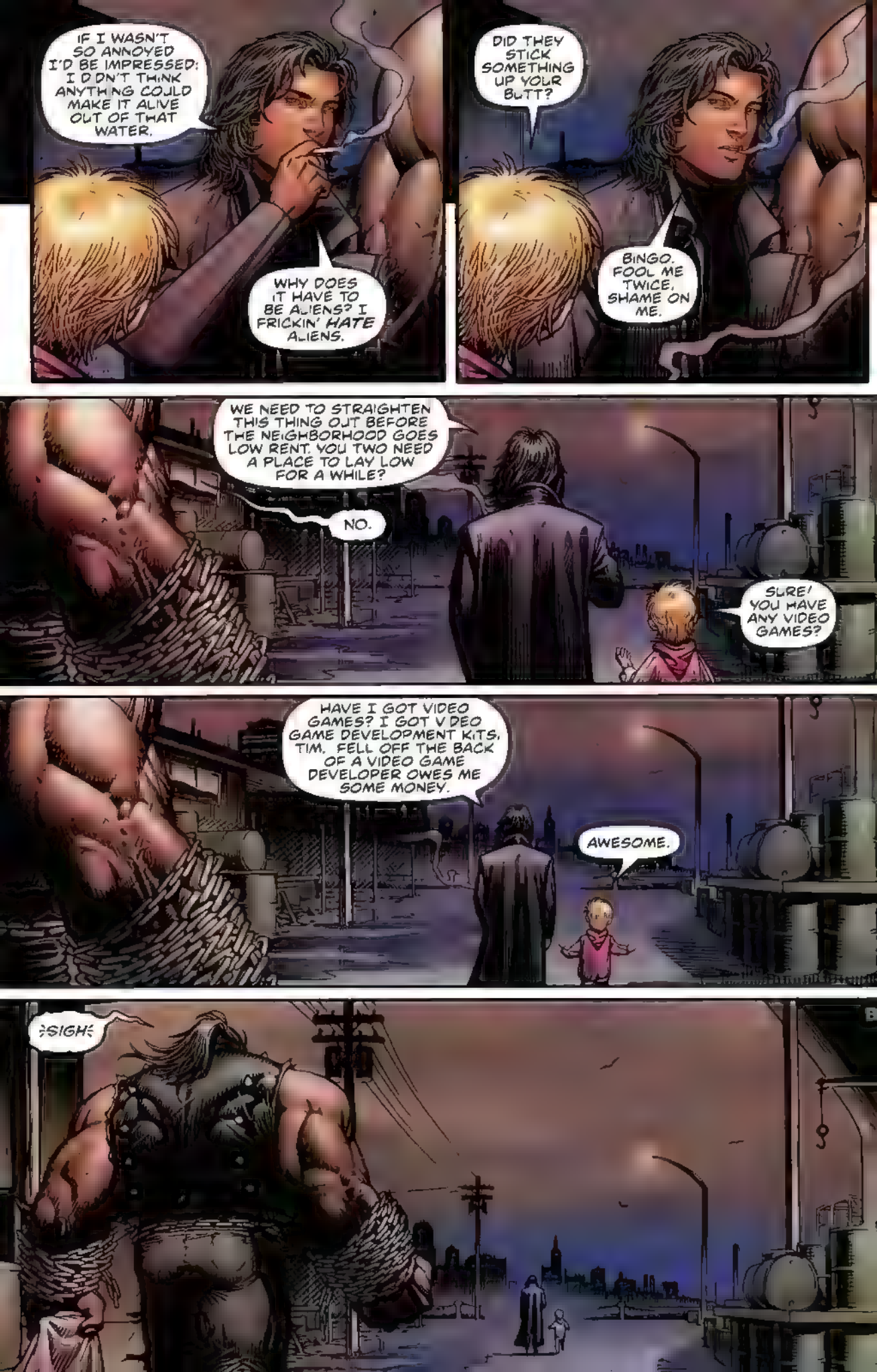

MY NAME'S TIM.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, TIM. JACKIE ESTACADO.
C'N I HAVE A CIGARETTE?
SURE.


DID YOU EVER KILL ANYONE?
ONLY BY MISTAKE. HOW ABOUT FILLING ME IN ON WHAT JJST HAPPENED?

PUT IT DOWN, TIM
THE ONE THAT JUST ESCAPED WAS ONCE A MAN LIKE YOU, MISTER ESTACADO.
THERE AREN'T MANY MEN LIKE ME. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

"LET'S SAY HE WAS *TAKEN.*

"THIS HAS BEEN A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE ON YOUR WORLD FOR MANY CENTURIES SOME DECADES AGO, POWERS WAS SELECTED AS A POTENTIAL RECIPIENT FOR A UNIQUE STUDY.
"A RACE OF BEINGS KNOWN AS THE GILAD-- POPULARLY KNOWN ON YOUR PLANETS AS "GRAYS"-- FIRST ABDUCTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY MUTILATED THIS INNOCENT MAN.
"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE OF THE TERROR MISTER POWERS FACED THAT DAY.
"HE WAS SUBJECTED TO AN INFUSION OF GENETIC MATERIAL BELONGING TO A VIRAL ENTITY THE GILAD HAD DISCOVERED DURING THEIR TRAVELS ACROSS THE COSMOS
"IT IS RECORDED BY THE GILAD THAT THE SUBJECT OF THEIR EXPERIMENT RECEIVED AN INFUSION OF VIRAL MATTER AT A TIME APPROXIMATING ELEVEN HUNDREDS HOURS EAST COAST TIME
"AFTER THAT, ALL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GILAD SHIP CEASED.
WITHIN TWELVE MINUTES IT IS BELIEVED THE ENTITY THAT WAS ONCE HUGO POWERS HAD INFECTED THE ENTIRE GILAD SHIP, WHICH CRASHED INTO THE SEA OFF THE COAST OF NEW JERSEY.
AND THIS IS WHERE THE EXPERIMENT HAS LAID DORMANT. UNTIL NOW.


IF I WASN'T SO ANNOYED I'D BE IMPRESSED: I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD MAKE IT ALIVE OUT OF THAT WATER.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ALIENS? I FRICKIN' HATE ALIENS.
DID THEY STICK SOMETHING UP YOUR BUTT?
BINGO. FOOL ME TWICE, SHAME ON ME.
WE NEED TO STRAIGHTEN THIS THING OUT BEFORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD GOES LOW RENT. YOU TWO NEED A PLACE TO LAY LOW FOR A WHILE?
NO.
SURE! YOU HAVE ANY VIDEO GAMES?
HAVE I GOT VIDEO GAMES? I GOT VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT KITS, TIM. FELL OFF THE BACK OF A VIDEO GAME DEVELOPER OWES ME SOME MONEY.
AWESOME.
:SIGH:

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ISSING
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TO BE CONTINUED

THE DARKNESS
THE PIT
NEXT ISSUE #2

The Darkness/Pitt

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

And we're going to prove it with *The Darkness/Pitt* limited series! When I first came on board at Top Cow about three years ago, we were just preparing to release *'The Darkness/Pitt* First Look,' a sneak peek of the upcoming series. I know how long you, the fans, have been waiting for this series, but we wanted to be certain that we'd be able to ship all three issues without delay. **Paul Jenkins**, **Dale Keown**, and **Frank D'Armata** have been poured copious amounts of passion, excitement and comic mojo into the pages of this three issue tour-de-force. And good things DO come to those who wait.

You've had the first taste now, are you ready for more? Don't believe you'll see it next month? We thought you might like a sneak peek of art from issue #2 below. Excited? I am!

Filip Sablik
Publisher Guy

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Headquartered in Milwaukie Oregon **Things From Another World** is celebrating its 30th anniversary as a premier provider of the coolest comics toys and collectibles. With three stores in the Portland area, one at Universal CityWalk in California and a super-cool website at **TFAW.com** their team prides themselves on offering excellent customer service and selection worldwide.

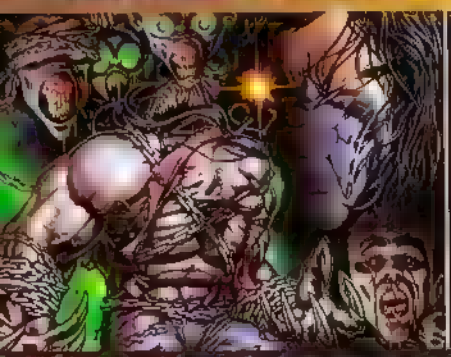
In addition to carrying a wide array of **Top Cow** titles, TFAW is actively engaged in the comics community. This year the company partnered with the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund soliciting over a third of the art donations for the 2009 CBLDF auction at the San Diego Comic Con from artists as varied as Mike Mignola, Steve Leiber and Phil Hester.

TFAW can be reached toll free at 800.862.0052 or online at **TFAW.com**. Make sure to stop in and say "Hi" via live chat and visit the blog for all the news and the latest news!

THIS MONTH ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Top Cow loves the Internet! Just take a look at all the love we put into **www.gethejen.com** for *Cyberforce/Hunter-Killer*! And have you seen all of the free previews and full comics available on **www.topcow.com**? Or that we tweet all sorts of top secret info to our followers on **twitter.com/topcow**?

THIS MONTH'S TOP COW



The Darkness/Pitt #1

(W) Paul Jenkins (A) Dale Keown (COV) Keown, Stjepan Sejic

Dale Keown's classic hero Pitt makes his return to comics! What else do you need to know?

When Tim and Pitt's mission to track down those infected by an alien virus brings them to Jackie's stomping grounds in New York, they are invariably drawn together. Both attract the unwanted attention of the Federal Government and mayhem ensues.

Full Color	32 pages
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08.09 IN STORES | WITCHBLADE #129 | IMPALER #4 | CYBERFORCE/HUNTER-KILLER #2 | THE DARKNESS #79 | Witchblade Origins Volume 3 TP

FROM THE MOOS DESK

PILOT SEASON

Kirkman. Silvestri. Pilot Season.

Are you ready for FIVE new creations from the collective minds of Robert Kirkman and Marc Silvestri? Well, we're bringing them to you! Robert Kirkman of *The Walking Dead* fame is joining forces with the Top Cow himself, Marc Silvestri to take over this year's Pilot Season event! Five new properties, all designed by Kirkman and Silvestri, written by Kirkman, with covers by Silvestri and the best part... you get to vote on which one of the "pilot issues" becomes a series.

In October, be on the lookout for *Pilot Season: Declassified*, a top secret inside look at the process of creating the new ideas for only ONE DOLLAR. Also in October, you can find both Kirkman and Silvestri at the Baltimore Comic Con. Then in November, the first issue hits comic shops with *Pilot Season: Murderer #1*.

-moo!

NOISE from the HERD — a word with RON MARZ

Writer (Witchblade)

No, I'm not telling you how "War of the Witchblades" ends so don't ask. You'll just have to find out for yourself when **Witchblade** #130 hits stands this month. In a lot of ways, issue #130 represents an ending, harvesting seeds that were planted way back in issue #100 when Danielle Baptiste was introduced into what had been Sara Pezzini's series up to that point. When it's over someone will have the Witchblade all to herself, and someone else will have earned her wings.

Not knowing what's going to happen is part of the fun, isn't it? I mean, you knew Steve Rogers was eventually going to be Captain America again, right? You know Bruce Wayne will be Batman again. With **Witchblade**... well, nothing's quite so certain.

So, without giving anything away, next month's issue #131 is the beginning of the next chapter of the **Witchblade** saga. The issue gathers up a few plot threads from "War of the Witchblades" and ties them up in hopefully neat fashion. But beyond that, #131 serves as a jumping-on point, a ground floor that welcomes new and old readers alike.

Stjepan Sejic and I will be around for quite a while on **Witchblade**. We've only touched the tip of the iceberg in terms of the stories we want to tell. Hope you'll be sticking around as well. And when #131 hits, bring a friend.

Ron

A cow can't give milk until she has had a calf. That's right, you're stealing milk from little baby calves.

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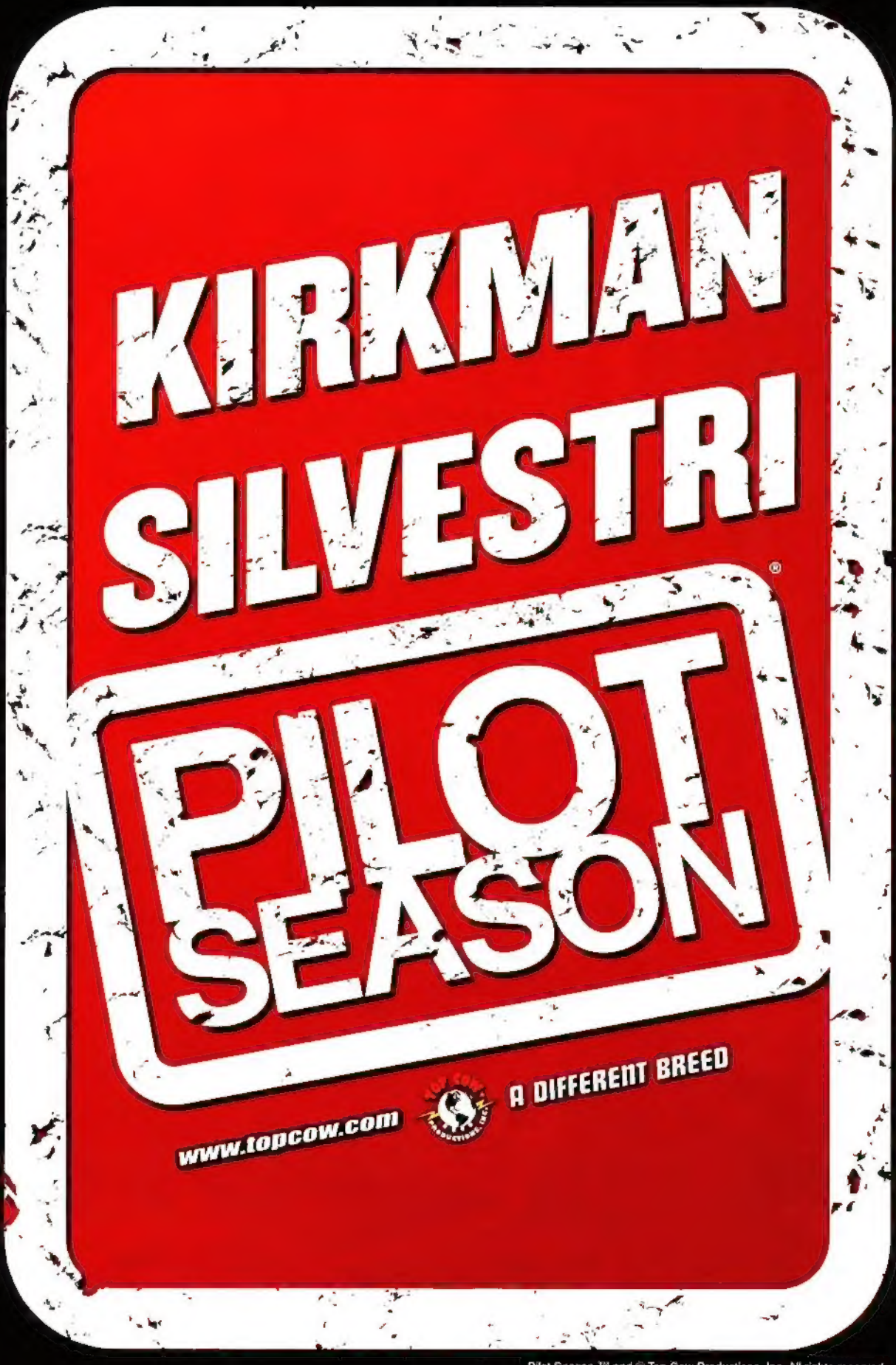

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